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# The AMERICAN TEACHER

DEMOCRACY IN EDUCATION . . . EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Vol. 5 — No. 1



CHICAGO 4, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER, 1958

## AFT Desegregation Complete

### Final Step At Milwaukee Convention

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The American Federation of Teachers is now a completely desegregated AFL-CIO International.

Delegates to its 42nd annual convention took the final step by voting to sustain the 1956 convention mandate voiding the charter of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County (Tenn.) Teachers Union, Local 246, which clung to the old order in the South.

The vote on the action was about 3 to 1 following a plea by Willard Millsaps, Local 246 treasurer and legislature chairman, to allow the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Local to remain in the AFT while taking a more leisurely procedure toward integration.

#### Claimed Step Impossible

Millsaps contended that the integration of his Local with the Mountain City Teachers Association, Local 428, in the same jurisdiction, was "impossible at this time," although some overtures, he said, had been made.

He said a Negro had "never been refused membership" in Local 246, but added he did not know whether any such application had been received. Dele-

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Wisconsin and AFT leaders snapped at 42nd annual convention banquet in Milwaukee: From left, seated—U. S. Senator William S. Proxmire (D., Wis.), banquet speaker; Carl J. Megel of Chicago, elected AFT president for fifth time, and Gaylord Nelson, Democratic candidate for governor of the state. Standing—James L. Fitzpatrick, convention chairman. leis and floral decorations were from the Hawaii Federation of Teachers, Local 1279. Story, Sen. Proxmire's talk, Page 3.

### Bargaining Laws Sought By Delegates

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The 42nd annual convention of the American Federation of Teachers adopted a series of resolutions and policies for improvement of classroom teacher welfare, including a legislative committee recommendation for the drafting of a model bill spelling out teachers rights to collective bargaining for introduction in state legislatures.

The convention asked that the AFT through its research department, prepare the bill, and stipulated that it should include:

- "1) Legal recognition of the right of public employees to join labor unions;
- "2) Legal right to designate representatives for collective bargaining;
- "3) Provisions to make it mandatory for the public agency to bargain collectively;
- "4) Provisions to insure representative elections in case of controversy;
- "5) Provisions for appeal to a

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## Massachusetts Strengthens Tenure

### Michigan Decisions, Rulings Firm Tenure, Grant Mediation

DETROIT, Mich.—State supreme and circuit court decisions along with tenure commission and attorney general's rulings this summer strengthened and broadened Michigan's tenure laws and gave the state labor mediation board jurisdiction in deadlocked teachers salary and working conditions disputes with school boards.

The majority of the cases benefited or reinstated AFT members in their jobs, and were supported financially by the Michigan State Federation of Teachers from its defense funds. "July," said Mrs. Jessie Baxter of Lincoln Park, MSFT presi-



Mrs. Baxter

dent, "became our month of decisions, since most of the rulings were in that time."

The various decisions and rulings were in that time.

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### AFT Membership Increases To All-Time High in 1957-58

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Membership in the American Federation of Teachers increased to an all-time high in the 1957-58 school year as a record 127 Locals made or exceeded their

membership quotas.

President Carl J. Megel announced that total membership as of July 1, stood at 53,025, a gain of 2,808 over the preceding year.

He gave citation awards to the 127 at the 42nd annual convention banquet here. The citations included special ones to nine Locals having exceeded their quotas for five years, and to six 100 per cent Locals, the latter having enrolled all teachers in their jurisdiction.

#### New Quotas Soon

The AFT president announced that October is Membership

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### ESFT Wins Birnbaum-Cate Annuity Restoration Case

ALBANY, N. Y.—The Empire State Federation of Teachers won its suit this summer against the New York State Teachers Retirement Board for the restoration of an approximate 5 per cent in teachers retirement allowances ordered cut by the board some 12 years ago.

The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest, in a 6 to 1 declaratory judgement, reversed a lower court ruling that had upheld the retirement

board's reduction of annuity rates on grounds of "actuarial soundness."

The case for the teachers was carried through the courts in the names of ESFT President

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### Convention Delegates Elect New AFT Executive Council

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### Bill of Rights Opens Way For Bargaining

BOSTON, Mass.—Three new laws—one strengthening tenure—supported by the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers and the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, and regarded as major contributions to teacher welfare and professional stability in the state, were enacted by this year's legislature.

They are:

- 1) A tenure law amendment providing for an appeal and de novo hearing in the superior court for tenure teachers discharged by the school (board) committee.
- 2) A Bill of Rights for teachers and other public employees, to lay the groundwork for future legislation providing for collective bargaining by these groups. It spells out formally the right

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## Massachusetts

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of teachers to join labor organizations and to "present proposals for salaries and other conditions of employment" through their representatives. (This right had been challenged recently by some public authorities.)

3) A Right to Eat law, requiring a 30-minute lunch period for teachers, later amended at the insistence of administrators and the NEA "company union" affiliate to make it subject to local option.

### Opposed by Administrators

The bills were signed by Gov. Foster Furcolo despite opposition variously, except to the lunch amendment, by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Schools Committee Association, the Superintendents Association, and in the case of the tenure amendment, also State Commissioner of Education Owen Kierman.

(Miss Rose Claffey of Salem, AFT vice-president, reported to the Executive Council in Milwaukee that the teachers of Massachusetts are "deeply indebted" to Kenneth J. Kelley, secretary-treasurer and legislative agent of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor; Mrs. Martha O'Neil of Boston, legislative chairman of the state federation of teachers, and Miss Sally Parker, AFT field representative, in getting the bills passed.)

The de novo tenure bill was sponsored by the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, and backed by the Federation of Labor in its at-times-uncertain and stormy progress through both houses which included roll calls and its return to the senate three times by the governor.

Under the previous tenure law teachers discharged had no statutory appeal from the decision of the school committee. The new amendment stipulates that any dismissed tenure teacher or superintendent has the right to appeal to the superior court, be represented by counsel, submit evidence and present witnesses.

### Law Among Best

The de novo amendment means that the court will hear all evidence and witnesses "afresh," weigh evidence and come to its own decision on the basis of the facts. "The teachers of Massachusetts," Miss Claffey said, "are now provided with one of the best tenure laws in the country."

The Bill of Rights for public employees provides that any such employees, state or local, "shall have the right to form and join labor organizations, and to present proposals for salaries and other conditions of employment through representatives of their own choosing." It continues:

"It shall be unlawful to discharge or otherwise discriminate against any employee for the exercise of such rights, nor shall any person or group of persons, either directly or indirectly, intimidate or coerce any public employee to join or refrain from joining a labor or vocational organization." The section is not applicable to public officials.

### In Political Platforms

The "rights" bill was sponsored by the Federation of Labor at the request of the Federation of Teachers, and was previously included in context in

## Chicago Goal 12,000 Members By Year End

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1, has set a new membership goal of 12,000 by Jan. 1, after going over the 10,000 mark.

John M. Fewkes, Local 1's president, said that because of increasing membership, its executive board and house of representatives are working on changes in organizational set-up to insure better communication between "even the most outlying schools and the central office."

both the Democratic and Republican platforms for this year.

The law providing that teachers must be given a duty-free, 30-minute lunch period, sponsored by the Federation of Labor, passed and signed by Lieut. Gov. Murphy earlier in the session (American Teacher magazine, April, 1958) was immediately attacked by the Massachusetts Education Association, other administrators' organizations and misinformed parents groups.

The local option amendment making the implementation of the law subject to the vote of the school committee was later enacted at the insistence of administrative forces. Miss Claffey said this action of the MTA lost it the respect of many teachers, and predicted that the lunch period will be put into effect in cities in the state having AFT Locals.

## Desegregation

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gates from Local 428 announced that its members were willing to integrate.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Union is the fourth Old South Local to separate or be separated from the American Federation of Teachers since the AFT Pittsburgh convention two years ago ordered desegregation of Southern Locals before Jan. 1, 1958.

### Clause in Constitution

The convention action regarding the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Local was under the following clause in the AFT constitution:

"SECTION 8—ARTICLE IV: No charter of the American Federation of Teachers which defines or recognizes jurisdiction on a basis of race or color, or permits the practice of such jurisdiction, shall be recognized as valid, and the practice of any Local in limiting its membership on account of race or color shall render its charter void."

Southern Locals remaining in good standing, in conformity with the constitution include: New Orleans League of Classroom Teachers, Local 527; Mountain City, Local 428; and the Capitol County (Ga.) Teachers Association, Local 188.

The American Federation of Teachers has pioneered for integration in the schools for more than ten years. It filed briefs supporting integration in the Supreme Court prior to the latter's famous decision.

## Membership

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Month, and said the new high is largely due to last October's "kick-off" and continued effort by Local leaders throughout the school year.

He said that membership quotas for the coming year will be in the hands of Local officers presently.

"Teachers of the country," he added, "are rapidly coming to the conclusion that 'the teachers union' holds the best promise for professional welfare."

### Reasons for Growth

Megel said factors responsible for the new growth were "as numerous as the goals and benefits of the AFT, ranging from legal defense of tenure teachers and the new occupational liability insurance, to successful negotiations by Locals for better salaries and working conditions."

The nine Locals receiving special citations for exceeding their membership quotas for five consecutive years follow:

Illinois—Granite City Community Federation of Teachers, Local 743. Michigan—Melvindale Federation, Local 1051, and Roseville, Local 1071. Minnesota—International Falls, Local 331, Robbinsdale, Local 872, Columbia Heights, Local 710, and Duluth, Local 692. Ohio—Oregon Township, Local 1080. Wisconsin—Milwaukee Teachers Union, Local 252.

### 100 Per Cent Locals

The six cited for enrolling all teachers in their jurisdictions were:

Illinois—West Frankfort, Local 817; District No. 182 (East St. Louis), Local 1214; Evergreen Park, Local 1250, and Streator Township High, Local 1270. Minnesota—Melrose, Local 1284. New York—Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, Local 1169.

Illinois received a special award for having the most Locals over the top, with 22 making or exceeding their quotas. Minnesota had the second largest number, 17, and Michigan was third with 13.

### Quota Locals

Locals cited for making their quotas included:

Alabama—Gadsden, Local 1241. Alaska—Anchorage, Local 1175. Arizona—Prima County, Local 1238. California—Oakland, Local 771; Vallejo, Local 827; Contra Costa County, Local 866; Martin County, Local 1077; Berkely, Local 1078; Sequoia, Local 1163; Humboldt County, Local 1203, and Ventura County, Local 1273.

Canal Zone—Balboa, Local 227; Atlantic, Local 228. Colorado—Denver Vocational, Local 203; Boulder County, Local 898; Jefferson County, Local 900, and Las Animas County, Local 1015.

Connecticut—New Britain, Local 871; New Haven, Local 933; Hartford, Local 1018. Georgia—Capitol County, Local 188.

Illinois—Chicago, Local 1; Belleville Township High, Local 434; Macoupin County, Local 528; Rockford, Local 540; West Suburban, Local 571; Will County, Local 604; Gillespie, Local 649; Belleville, Local 673; Thornton, Local 683; Granite City, Local 743; West Frankfort, Local 817; Kankakee, Local 886.

Also, Southwest (Chicago) Suburban, Local 943; Venice, Local 965; East St. Louis District



Their's were two of the six AFT Locals receiving special citations at the Milwaukee convention for enrolling 100 per cent of the teachers in their jurisdiction: Richard D. Trepanier, past president, Streater Township (Ill.) High School Federation of Teachers, Local 1270, and Mrs. Virginia Terry, president, Evergreen Park (Ill.) Federation of Teachers, Local 1250.

No. 182, Local 1215; Chicago School Library Assistants, Local 1215; East St. Louis, Local 1220; Evergreen Park, Local 1250; Streater, Local 1270; Cahokia Commonfields, Local 1272; Niles Township, Local 1274, and Lockport Township, Local 1291.

Indiana—Gary, Local 4; Hammond, Local 394; Indianapolis, Local 581; Calumet Township, Local 662; South Bend, Local 679; LaPorte, Local 714; Vigo County, Local 764, and Princeton, Local 835.

Iowa—Cedar Rapids, Local 716; Council Bluffs, Local 1042. Kansas—Wichita, Local 725. Kentucky—Louisville, Local 672.

Massachusetts—Boston, Local 66; Springfield, Local 484; Lawrence, Local 1019; Lynn, Local 1037, and Peabody, Local 1289.

Michigan—Pontiac, Local 417; Dearborn, Local 681; Highland Park, Local 684; Wayne, Local 689; East Detroit, Local 698; Melvindale, Local 1051; Roseville, Local 1071; Ferndale, Local 1074; Fitzgerald, Local 1082; Ecorse Township, Local 1105; Allen Park, Local 1181; Ecorse, District No. 8, Local 1280, and Wayne, Local 1295.

Minnesota—Minneapolis, Local 59; International Falls, Local 331; Hibbing, Local 669; Duluth, Local 692; Columbia Heights, Local 710; South St. Paul, Local 861; Robbinsdale, Local 872, and Mound, Local 926.

Also, St. Paul, Local 1125; West St. Paul, Local 1148;

Edina-Morningside, Local 1172; Richfield, Local 1204; Minnesota Department of Education, Local 1240; Anoka-Hennepin, Local 1244; Aurora, Local 1255; Melrose, Local 1284, and Austin, Local 1296.

Missouri—Kansas City, Local 691. Montana, Butte, Local 332; and Anaconda, Local 502. New Hampshire—Nashua, Local 1044. New Jersey—Camden County, Local 449; Elizabeth, Local 733; Woodbridge, Township, Local 822. New York—New York City, Local 2; Workers Education, Local 189; Rochester, Local 616; Utica, Local 843, and Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, Local 1169.

North Dakota—Minot, Local 302. Ohio—Toledo, Local 250; Cleveland, Local 279; Springfield, Local 296; Columbus, Local 538; Mansfield, Local 703; Ashland, Local 735; Lancaster, Local 794; Oregon Township, Local 1080, and Wellston, Local 1257.

Pennsylvania—Penn State Chapter, Local 500. Rhode Island—West Warwick, Local 1017. Washington—Tacoma, Local 461, and Bellingham, Local 512.

Wisconsin—Milwaukee Vocational, Local 212; Madison, Local 243; Milwaukee, Local 252; Superior, Local 395; Wisconsin Rapids, Local 421; Wisconsin Circuit, Local 432; La Crosse, Local 652; Eau Claire, Local 696; West Milwaukee, Local 1067; Manasha Local 1166, and Maple, Local 1293.



AFT 42nd annual convention delegates, also candidates for their state legislature: Byron McCammon, left, president, and Eugene Smith, delegate, Fort Wayne (Ind.) Teachers Council, Local 700, discuss convention program and their political objectives with Rose Claffey of Salem, Mass., AFT vice-president. McCammon and Smith are running for state representatives from their districts.



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New Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers elected to a two-year term at the 42nd annual convention in Milwaukee. Seated, from left: Sophie Jaffe, New Britain, Conn.; Mrs. Veronica B. Hill, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Rebecca Simonson, New York City; Mary Herrick, Chicago; Selma Borchardt, Washington, D. C.; Ed Jewett, Council Bluffs, Iowa; (John Lichtenberg, Chicago, legal counsel) President Carl J. Megel, Chicago, and Robert B. DeMars, Ypsilanti, Mich. Standing, from left: Paul B. High, Cleveland, Ohio; Dan Jackson, San Francisco, Calif.; Charles Boyer, Minneapolis, Minn.; William Karnes, Phoenix, Ariz.; Rose Claffey, Salem, Mass.; Glenn Parish, Superior, Wis.; Phyllis Hutchinson, Portland, Ore., and Edward A. Irwin, Los Angeles, Calif. In insert, David Cramer, Fort Wayne, Ind., who was unable to be present when photo was taken.

## Proxmire Calls Congress School Action 'Moral Flop'

Photo on Page 1

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Wisconsin's U. S. Senator William S. Proxmire (D.), told delegates to the 42nd annual American Federation of Teachers convention that failure of the last congress to enact "substantial educational legislation" was "its most significant practical as well as moral flop."

Sen. Proxmire spoke at the convention banquet adding that if re-elected he plans to push his own bill to return a part of the federal income tax to each state for educational purposes.

He called the education bill for fellowships and loans enacted near the close of the session "a step in the right direction, but a timid, halting tiptoe where a giant stride is called for." He added:

### New Law's Provisions

"The new law does provide modest appropriations for student loans, for graduate fellowships, for school purchase of scientific equipment, for teacher training in counseling and foreign languages, and for vocational education related to national defense."

He said his own bill goes to the heart of the matter.

"It does so," he declared, "by providing \$100 for each school-

age child from the Federal income tax of the people themselves; therefore without Federal control.

"It would make available to every community and to every school child in America the funds for school construction and especially for adequate teacher salaries that alone can provide that equal chance to grow to full stature which the word 'America' means to the world and which is still the most revolutionary concept at work in the world.

### Not Meeting Responsibility

"To be brutally frank, we, the American people are not meeting our major responsibility—the responsibility for educating our children. This failure is the most significant and tragic in American life. If it continues it will mean America will have wasted the prime ingredient of leadership—human intelligence, and it will mean America will lose the struggle for freedom to the Soviet Union; and all the hundreds of billions of dollars the Congress spends on national defense will avail us nothing.

"It is easy to defend a program of aid to education on the ground that it is an answer to the challenge of Soviet Russia. That is a valid defense—we must win the battle of the blackboards—but it is not the best one, nor even a necessary one. Education for the good life in a free land is still the noblest enterprise men can embark upon."

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## Cleveland, 279, Year-Long Program in 25th Anniversary

CLEVELAND, O.—The Cleveland Federation of Teachers, Local 279, is celebrating the Twenty-Fifth anniversary of its founding this year with a series of monthly events that will culminate April 18 in an anniversary dinner.

Paul A. Corey, Local 279 president, announced that the school-year-long observation was to get under way the evening of Sept. 18 with a dinner honoring new teachers in the Cleveland system and building representatives.

October events will include a special dinner and membership attendance at a Cleveland Browns football game.

### To Visit United Nations

Thanksgiving week-end in November has been set aside,

Corey said, for a pilgrimage to New York city in special planes. Included will be a visit to the United Nations, theater parties, and special dinners.

A fish fry will be held in January, and in February members will go on a skiing week-end. March is to include a building chairmen's award dinner.

### Dinner to Climax

More than 2,000 teachers and guests are expected to attend the April 18 climax dinner, at which, Corey added, Local 279 anticipates having experienced its greatest membership growth for any year.

The Cleveland Federation of Teachers is the largest AFT Local in Ohio, and the fourth largest in the country.



Leaders of the Cleveland Federation of Teachers, Local 279, confer on plans for Local's 25th anniversary celebration while attending Milwaukee AFT convention. From left—Catherine MacFarland, trustee; President Paul A. Corey, and Maxine Kachourbos, chairman of 279's social committee.



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## Do You Remember?

By Ragna Koppang\*

Are you a member of your teachers' organization? No? Then why not? It has been suggested by some teachers that membership lists be released and compared, and names turned over to the administration. You wouldn't like that, would you? Neither would I.

Our organization does not approve of or want to be a party to such Gestapo tactics. But honestly now do you believe that you have rightfully earned the "fruits of the labors" of those who have given of their time, energy, and money that you might have a better life? Are you entitled to promotion and special consideration? If you do not have enough respect for your profession to support its organizations, then probably you should not be teaching.

When times are good people become complacent, membership falls off, and few want to take responsibility or hold office. You hear the old refrain, "Let George do it." But when times are bad or something else goes wrong, you hear on all sides, "Why doesn't the union do something about it?" or "Why doesn't somebody do something?" This isn't more peculiar to teachers than to other groups. One hears the same lament in every organization.

Do you remember when teachers were working for \$50 a month? I do. I did. I also remember when I was paid \$90 a month in Bellingham. That was in 1935, not so many years ago. "Shameful!" you say. Quite true, but at the same time others were selling apples on the street.

No, probably you don't remember—you were too young, or maybe you weren't even born yet. Some of us remember though.

You think that could never happen again. Don't be so sure. Worse things could happen. Just read the history books.

Do you remember when there were no retirement benefits, no sick leave, no group health and accident insurance, no social security, no hospitalization benefits, and no single salary?

Do you women teachers remember the time when your contract stated, "Marriage of a woman teacher

during the period of her employment shall automatically terminate this contract." I remember. I still have the 1931 contract.

That reminds me of a story. A group of teachers met the superintendent to discuss the pay problem. The superintendent definitely favored more pay for men because they had wives and children to support. (You can't have your cake and eat it.) This was before all the wives were allowed to teach. In the course of the discussion one of the unmarried teachers who had cared for elderly parents, helped brothers and sisters through school, and had made countless other sacrifices, quietly said, "But you haven't allowed my children to be born." A survey at this time showed that a large percentage of unmarried teachers had family responsibilities as great as the married men.

Do you remember when teachers who tried meekly to protest against injustices, discrimination, and favoritism were told, "If you don't like the way I run the schools, get out and get yourself another job."

Do you remember when some class loads were over 50? I taught algebra to classes of 51 and 52. Sounds crazy, doesn't it? Do you remember when bobbing one's hair was cause for dismissal?

Do you remember when teachers were required to live in the district in which they taught? Or when teachers didn't dare to enter the sanctity of a board meeting?

How do you think teachers have acquired present day benefits? Do you think they were sponsored by magnanimous administrators or school boards? Hardly so. The teachers have fought for these benefits every inch of the way. What teachers? Not the "riders" who failed to join the professional union, but those who year after year have kept the organization going, paying dues, holding office, working on committees, and doing a hundred and one other tasks.

Yes, teachers have come a long way in the past thirty years, but don't think for one moment that you can rest on others' laurels. You still have a long way to go. Complacency is deadly! It can undermine faster than you can build.

Join your AFT Local. Be one of the gang. Pay your dues promptly. Give a hand to the work to be done. Come to the meetings. You will find friends there when in need. Someone said, "Friends are the people you haven't met yet." Come and get acquainted!

## "IF"

By Mahlon R. Hagerty, Jr.\*

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your head when all your students  
Receive their grades and blame the F's on you,  
And smile as they go sulking from your classroom,  
Uttering things you know are all untrue.

If you can face a rabid, irate parent  
Who thinks you have it in for Johnny dear,  
And send that parent on his way contented,  
And feeling he has nothing more to fear.

If you can hold the interest of your pupils,  
Without resort to pageantry or frills,  
And put across the subject you are teaching,  
Not in the guise of sugar-coated pills.

If you can be on hand for every meeting  
That pedagogues are plagued with after hours—  
Meetings that drag on in endless fashion,  
And usually dominated by the powers.

If you can fail the team's most brilliant halfback,  
Who sits in class and occupies a seat,  
Then listen to the Monday morning beefers  
Blame you for the varsity's defeat.

If you can take a class of forty pupils—  
Including geniuses and morons, too;  
And hold the interest of the little darlings  
With interruptions from the office crew.

If you can fill in all the forms they hand you,  
Nor gripe about the busy work and such;  
Then listen to your business friends complaining,  
Because they think they have to do too much.

If you can take the meagre check they hand you,  
And make it cover all the current bills;  
Then listen to the citizenry exploding,  
And blaming schools for all the nation's ills.

If you can fill an hour's hectic period  
With sixty minutes worth of learning done,  
Don't ever try to call yourself a teacher—  
Why, you're a saint, and nothing less, my son.

\*Chairman of publications, Bellingham (Wash.) Federation of Teachers, Local 518, in BFT Sparks.

\*Publicity chairman, Salt River Valley (Ariz.) Federation of Teachers, Local 1010.

## The President's Column

By Carl J. Megel

It has just come to my attention that teachers may apply for income tax deductions for study or travel expenses incurred for educational purposes during the calendar year 1954, until Oct. 31, 1958. These deductions are the result of the AFT's realistic approach to this problem over the last several years. We stated that legislation was not the answer, but that an Internal Revenue Department ruling was all that was necessary to give the same deductions for educational expenses as is now provided for doctors, lawyers, and other professional people. If you incurred educational expenses during the calendar year, 1954, and have not yet filed for refund, you must do so on or before Oct. 31, 1958.

ANOTHER CONVENTION of the American Federation of Teachers has just ended. Another school year has begun, in a sea of complex problems. For the AFT, we have closed the most successful year in our history. A successful year in substantive gains—in increased prestige, and in expanded stature. At a time when other organizations are having difficulty in even maintaining membership, ours continues to rise to the highest in history. We have six Locals which have 100 per cent membership and nine others which for five successive years consistently made outstanding membership gains.

THERE HAVE been problems, too. Problems in which entire Locals were involved—and problems concerning individual members only. Many of these have been favorably resolved. Many more will need our continuing attention.

This has been a year in which the great American labor movement has more than ever before become aware of the teacher union movement and of the AFT. President Meany's Labor Day Message to the Nation gave strong indication of labor's concern of the nation's school difficulties and teacher problems.

AND EVEN as we 'point with pride' to past accomplishments, we set our sights to the future and to the goals yet to be reached. The convention just ended completed desegregation within the organization. The way is now clear for membership growth throughout the nation. But more especially, it provides released energy for promoting educational opportunities for all children. We must formulate plans and develop aid in advancing integration within our schools and promoting democratic human relations. Democracy within a nation is only as strong as the rights and privileges of its constituents.

The delegate body reiterated its stand on many issues of importance to the teaching profession. Details of such actions are reported elsewhere in this issue of the American Teacher. More than ever before, the importance of the teaching profession as an integral part of the community, was made obvious.

It is vital that we move forward in a forthright manner and with renewed fervor, if we are to not only place our profession in proper perspective, but also insure educational opportunity second to none.

Among the speakers at the National Convention were people outspoken in their criticism of the handling of school problems and firm in their conviction that the solution of these problems lies in the union teacher movement.

In my presidential address I, too, pointed up the need for exercising our political responsibilities as teachers. On Nov. 4, next, representatives in the U. S. Congress are up for re-election; as also are one-third of the senators.

I urge you, in your local communities and in your individual states, to see to it that all eligible voters, and most especially teachers, are registered. Also consider it your duty to see that registered voters understand the issues and vote for the best qualified candidates.

IT IS OUR DUTY, both as citizens and as teachers, to do all we can to elect to Congress, the kind of leadership necessary to resolve the two major issues which are before the people of this nation: education and peace in the world.

Without peace, little progress can be made in education. But, while there is yet time—even though it is later than we think—re-dedication to the deep inner conviction that education unlocks the doors of our future and gives us the tools for inaugurating permanent peace, may yet save us.

Let us all have a part in electing people to our state and national legislative bodies who will carry the torch for education, and for peace!





His Honor visits AFT convention: Mayor Frank P. Zeidler of Milwaukee, right, toured the 42nd annual convention exhibits, and noted labor support of union teachers in Milwaukee Labor Press. Center is James L. Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee, convention chairman. Harold E. Beck, business agent of Milwaukee Office Employees, Local 9, also accompanied mayor.

## Otterson Minnesota Secretary

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Harvey Otterson of Columbia Heights, for many years a teachers union leader, is the new executive - secretary of the Minnesota State Federation of Teachers.

Otterson stepped down from his office as president to take over the work, succeeding Henry Winkels, resigned. The MSFT at its last convention, voted to increase state dues from \$4.00 to \$6.00 a year.



Mr. Otterson

## Council Names Paul D. Ward AFT Secretary

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Paul D. Ward, director of AFT special services since January, 1957, was named AFT secretary by the Executive Council in post-convention session.

Ward came to the national offices in Chicago from Richmond, Calif., after serving as administrative assistant to Cong. Robert L. Condon (D., Calif. 83rd), and gained an enviable record.

He was also secretary-treasurer of Sen. George Miller, Jr.'s campaign for lieutenant governor of California, and was active in campaigns of the Contra Costa Federation of Teachers, Local 866.

As AFT director of special services he assisted Locals with a wide variety of problems, including negotiations for better salaries and working conditions.



Mr. Ward



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## Eisenhower, Meany, Reuther Salute AFT Goals, Progress

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Greetings from the nation's leaders to the 42nd annual convention of the American Federation of Teachers included one from President Dwight D. Eisenhower and others from AFL-CIO President George Meany and UAW President Walter P. Reuther.

Eisenhower's telegram to AFT President Carl J. Megel requested that the former's greetings be extended to the delegates and added:

"Your organization has done much to focus professional and public attention on our country's educational problems and progress.

"With a strong community interest in education, our schools and teachers will receive the priority of effort required in this competitive age."

### Strong Union Needed

Meany told the convention: "The plight of the American school system is perhaps better known to the members of the American Federation of Teachers than to any other single group of teachers. As teachers, you are called upon to teach in school buildings which are not safe, and in classrooms which are overcrowded; what is more, you are grossly underpaid, as the delegates to the American Federation of Teachers convention can testify.

"The best way to improve the wage scale and working conditions of teachers is through a good, strong teachers union. The all-time high membership of the American Federation of Teachers gives evidence that teachers are beginning to recognize this fact. The AFL-CIO compliments you on your thrilling progress and sends hope for your future advancement."

Reuther, also AFL-CIO vice-president, declared: "The UAW is proud of its association with your union, which has had a year of such tremendous growth and accomplishment. We are confident that the coming year will see even more teachers recognizing the obvious fact that collective bargaining is the most important tool in building a working relationship based on justice and equity.

"A mighty factor, moreover, in the quest for decent levels of education for all of our children, is a strong effective and militant union of teachers. The AFT is all of those things, and we look forward to the increasingly important role you will play in the future.

"We in the UAW appreciate your efforts because we believe in strong, honest unions; because we agree with you on the need for a better educational system, and because we have children of our own in school, and we want for them, as all parents do, the best possible training for life."

### Leadership Inspirational

Former Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, and Democratic presidential candidate in the last election, wrote: "Your union has an enviable record, and your leadership has been a source of inspiration to your countless friends, of which I am proud to be one."

The convention also received greetings and well-wishes from Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan; U. S. Senators Paul A. Douglas of Illinois, and Hubert M. Humphrey of Minnesota; George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks; M. Van De Moortel, secretary-general of the International Federation of Free Teachers Unions, and others.



## Private School Guild Unit Negotiates New Benefits

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Teachers in private schools in New York unlike those in public schools are under the state labor relations laws with some unsurprising results.

The New York Teachers Guild, Local 2, recently received a gift of \$600—no strings attached—from members of its chapter in private Robert Louis Stevenson school for the Guild's



Mr. Miller

effectiveness in bargaining.

Under the leadership of Irving Miller, chapter chairman, the chapter recently negotiated contracts with sick leave, bonuses and other benefits.

Miller said both the school and the chapter have been well-satisfied with the collective bargaining arrangement, and added: "We both know where we stand."

Meanwhile, the New York public school administration continues to avoid across-the-table relations with its teachers, and the shortage of competent teachers in the city grows annually.



New York Teachers Guild, Local 2, delegates inspect 42nd annual AFT convention exhibits between sessions. From left: Dan Sanders of Jamaica, editor of the Empire State Bulletin; Joseph Kuefer, Clara Gluck and Charles Cogen, the latter president of Local 2, at display of American Teacher awards entry publications.

## Dr. Count's Book on Soviets Wins ALA's \$5,000 Award

CHICAGO, Ill.—Dr. George S. Counts of New York city, past president of the American



Dr. Counts

Federation of Teachers has been announced the winner of one of the American Library Association's \$5,000 Liberty and Justice Book Awards, for his book, "The Challenge of Soviet Education." The book

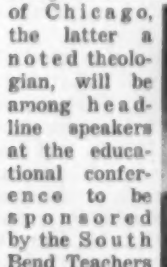
won the award for Counts in the category of non-fiction works on contemporary affairs. The judges comprised of unnamed experts said of the volume:

"This carefully documented, authoritative description of soviet education deserves wide reading. For it warns the American people that our intellectual leadership of the world will be lost and our very freedom threatened unless they begin to realize that we must... build a new strength into our nation through an educational system which will serve the purpose of a free society as effectively as soviet education serves the purpose of despotism."

Dr. Counts, for many years a distinguished figure in education is professor emeritus of Teachers College, Columbia University, and the author of many books including others on the soviet and soviet education.

## South Bend Conference In October

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—AFT President Carl J. Megel and Dr. Joseph Sittler of the University



Mr. Ingram

of Chicago, the latter a noted theologian, will be among headline speakers at the educational conference to be sponsored by the South Bend Teachers Union, Local 679, here in October. The con-

ference will be Thursday, Oct. 23, and Friday, Oct. 24 in St. Mary's College. Former AFT Vice-President Ann Maloney, and long-time leader of Indiana union teacher organizations will be luncheon speaker on "Merit Rating" in Knights of Columbus hall.

James Ingram is program chairman of the conference, and John Fitzhenry is president of the Local.

## Big New Locals In Des Moines And Las Vegas

CHICAGO, Ill.—Two of the largest American Federation of Teachers Locals chartered this year are the Las Vegas (Nev.) Classroom Teachers Association, Local 1317, and the Des Moines (Ia.) Federation of Teachers, Local 600.

AFT President Carl J. Megel presented a charter this summer to William Schuermann, president of the Des Moines Local, which retained the number of a previous one in the district.

The Local was organized after "hush-hush" meetings on salary between Des Moines Education Association officers and school administrators, results of which were denied 1,500 DMEA members.

During the controversy, Sam S. Turk, president of the AFL-CIO Polk County Labor Council, told Des Moines teachers, "We will be able to support you if you affiliate with the American Federation of Teachers."

President Schuermann and Vice-President Merle E. Wood declared: "We hope, by forming an AFT Local, to regain and keep a feeling of security. We feel we can provide a service and power to education in Des Moines which has been lacking. We will work to protect teachers' rights!"

Evelyn Stuckey is president of the recently chartered Las Vegas Local 1317. Other new 1957-58 Locals, in addition to those previously reported in The American Teacher publications, are:

California—Shasta County, Local 1320, and Studio Teachers Guild of America, Local 1323. Michigan—Bath, Local 1322, and Niles, Local 1321. Minnesota—Crosby-Ironton, Local 1325 and Pipestone, Local 1324, and Washington—Grays Harbor, Local 1326.

## Three AFT Summer Workshops

CHICAGO, Ill.—Three one-week summer workshops in union teacher problems and techniques were successfully sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers during the past summer.

The 'shops were held in the University of Wisconsin school for workers, Penn. State University and the University of California, Berkeley.

They were set up under the direction of an AFT workshop committee of which James L. Fitzpatrick of Milwaukee, then AFT vice-president, was chairman.

The University of California department of education collaborated in the Berkeley 'shop, with a one-credit course on "Sociological Factors in Teaching."

University faculty members and officers, department heads and others of the American Federation of Teachers as well as area AFT leaders staffed the classes at each university.



The annual Democratic Human Relations luncheon remained a highlight of the 42nd annual AFT convention. From left—Mrs. Lydia Sayre Lewis of the Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1, who presided; Alphonse Cion, administrative assistant to the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on Human Rights, speaker, and the Rev. W. J. G. McLin, Milwaukee pastor.

## Fulbright and Smith-Hughes Awards Deadline October 1

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Deadline is Oct. 1, next, for the filing of applications for U. S. government awards and exchanges for the 1959-60 year under the Fulbright and Smith-Hughes acts.

The program this year includes most countries outside the Iron Curtain, as well as British and other colonial territories, but there are some changes of locales from last year.

Information and application forms for the three available categories listed may be ob-

tained from the following:

Teaching in Elementary and Secondary Schools: U. S. Office of Education, Division of International Education, Teachers Exchange Section, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C.

Graduate Study: Institute of International Education, 1 E. 67th st., New York 21, N. Y.

University Lecturing, Advanced Research: Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution ave., Washington 25, D. C.



Orchid for a 51-year teacher: Mrs. Harriet C. Dixon, center, treasurer, charter member and delegate of the Washington, D. C., Teachers Union, Local 6, and for 51 years a teacher in the District of Columbia schools, was pinned with the corsage at AFT convention Democratic Human Relations luncheon in Milwaukee. Mrs. Mary Buckner and Don Goodloe, also Local 6 delegates, congratulate her.

## Calls Neglect of Schools Dangerous as Communism

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Cong. Richard Bolling told American Federation of Teachers members of the Kansas City area that lack of support for education is as great a threat to the future of democracy as the "growing power of communism."

Bolling spoke at a dinner of the Kansas City Federation of Teachers, Local 691; the Independence Federation, Local 1184,

North Kansas City, Local 1309, and Kansas City, Kan., Federation, Local 725. He added:

"Over the long pull we will not succeed in meeting the communist world-wide challenge unless we meet here at home the challenge of making available to our children the best education each one is capable of absorbing."



## Arizona AFL-CIO Scores NEA Leader for Curb on Its Veep

TUCSON, Ariz.—Supt. Marion Donaldson and the school board of the Amphitheater district stepped into a hornet's nest when Donaldson failed to release Richard Y. Murray to attend a State AFL-CIO convention.

Murray, a vice-president of the Arizona AFL-CIO, is past president of the Pima County Teachers Union, Local 1238. Teachers union delegates from the Tucson and Phoenix districts were released without question.



Mr. Murray

The AFL-CIO sent a "blistering" resolution to Donaldson and the board, pointing out that Donaldson is a past president of the company union, Arizona Education Association, but nevertheless he is expected to release Murray henceforth.

### Could Not Appeal

This was also after Donaldson informed the Pima County Teachers' Union it could not appeal his ruling to the school board because the company union was the "recognized spokesman to the board on teachers' affairs."

Labor delegations from Murray's district went before the board with the ultimatum that Donaldson be instructed to stop the nonsense.

Meanwhile, the National Education Association in Washington, pumping out items about AFT progress and activities to NEA affiliates "to show trends" included facsimile copies of stories from the January, 1958, American Teacher on growth and recognition of Arizona AFT Locals.

### Cited Union Progress

The articles were those headed, "Union Teachers to be Labor Education Arm in Arizona," and "Pima County Sets a Record in Members' Dues Benefits."

The exhibit, also including quotations on school and teacher issues from President Carl J. Megel and John M. Fewkes, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1, were sent by Lois V. Rogers, NEA Office of Field Operations, Washington, to state executive secretaries, state field workers and NEA unit heads.

## Labor Priest Urges Teachers Attain Economic Citizenship

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—A noted Catholic educator, pastor, and labor arbitration consultant declared here that while Americans have attained a fair measure of political democracy, they are yet restricted or lacking in economic citizenship.



Father O'Connell

The Rev. Father Vincent O'Connell from St. Paul, Minn., told the 42nd annual convention of the American Federation of Teachers:

"Today, the decisions made by professional, financial, employer and labor groups affect human lives more directly and more importantly than many political decisions.

"Election of our civic, business, agricultural, labor and professional representatives (is) our responsibility."

### Join Organizations

He urged Americans to join

their appropriate organizations and "take part in electing and unelecting" their representatives, and added:

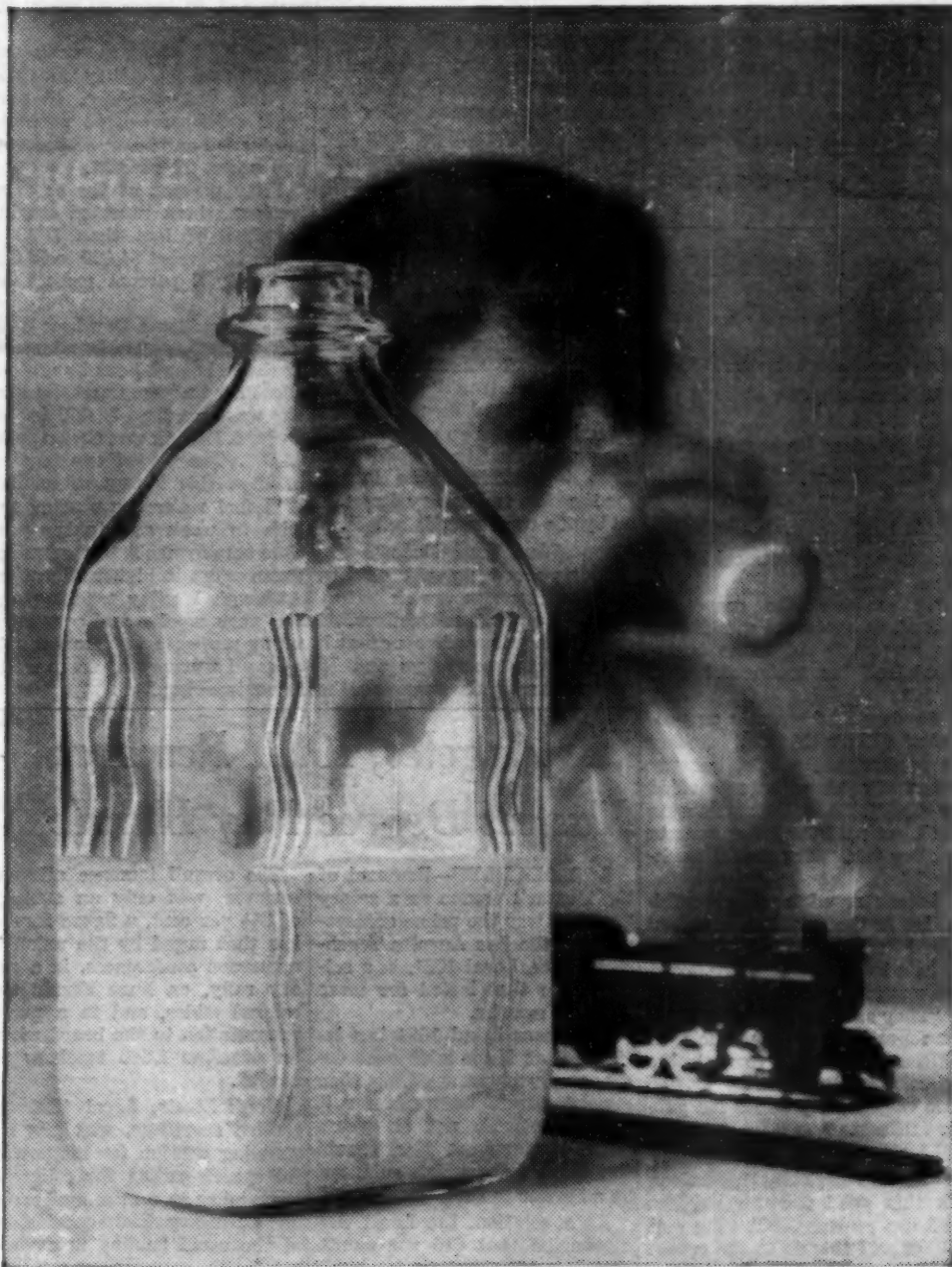
"If I may be specific with teachers, the best way that a teacher can exercise his or her professional or economic citizenship is by belonging to and working for and with the American Federation of Teachers."

A democracy, he stated, indicates a social system that, at the very least, gives the people a voice in all human decisions affecting their lives.

### NEA Administrators

"Some have suggested," he continued, "that it is sufficient for a teacher to belong to the National Education Association. This association was neither founded by teachers or for the welfare of teachers. Its structure is primarily designed for (school) administrators."

Father O'Connell, also chaplain in past sessions of the Minnesota legislature, was in transit from the pastorate of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, St. Paul, to a post in the Chanel School in Bedford, Ohio.



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Presidents of the four Milwaukee area Locals who were hosts to the 42nd annual AFT convention look over the program and approve of it: From left—Erwin H. Schubert, president, West Milwaukee Federation of Teachers, Local 1067; Donald T. Soule, president, Milwaukee Teachers Union, Local 252; Clarence Lake, president, Milwaukee Vocational School Teachers Association, Local 212, and Elizabeth Holmes, president, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Local 79.

## Eyeglass Fund Annual Games Aid \$10,000 Aid Student In Five Years Scholarships

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Eyeglass Fund of the Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1, has spent more than \$10,000 in the last five years for eye examinations and glasses for needy school children.

This Fund (American Teacher magazine, Jan. 1956) has been supported over the years by proceeds from the union's annual card parties and style shows as well as grants from the Ella Flagg Young and Laura T. Brayton estates.

The Local's house of represen-

CHICAGO, Ill. — Several Locals of the American Federation of Teachers are sponsoring annual faculty-student basketball games for the benefit of scholarship funds.

Among these are the Two Rivers (Wis.) Federation of Teachers, Local 1252, under the chairmanship of Miss Mary C. Dunne, and the Amsterdam (Mass.) Classroom Teachers Association, Local 1033, of which Charles Hulbert is president.

tatives, at the suggestion of John M. Fewkes, its president, recently conducted a campaign for voluntary contributions by teachers to the fund, since no card party was held last year because of the union's twentieth anniversary celebration.

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# Three-Fourths in Los Angeles Do Extra Jobs

## Fifteen AFT Publications Win Awards

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The Detroit Teacher, publication of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, Local 231, won its fourth straight first place for editorial excellence among state and local AFT newspapers in the American Teacher awards this year.

Twenty-two awards of Merit were presented to 15 publications at the Union Teacher Press Association luncheon at the AFT convention by Ray Taylor of Milwaukee, editor of the Milwaukee Labor Press. Mrs. Mary Kasteed of Detroit, UPTA president, presided. Thirty-six publications were entered in the contest.

The award-winning publications were selected in the fourth annual contest by a panel of impartial judges, including: Taylor; Harold Newton, editor of Kenosha (Wis.) Labor, and Robert Taylor, director of the University of Wisconsin News Bureau, Madison.

The publications issued in the 1957-58 school year were judged in three classifications: Newspapers, printed and offset bulletins and mimeographed bulletins. Winners were:

### Newspapers

**Editorial Excellence:** The Detroit Teacher, first, with second place to the Los Angeles Union Teacher, and third to the Wisconsin Teacher.

**Artistic Excellence:** Los Angeles Union Teacher, first, with second place to the Detroit Teacher.

**Best Editorial:** Los Angeles Union Teacher, first, for, "Concern for the Gifted Child," in its Jan., 1958, issue.

**Best Article on Teacher-Community Relations:** The Detroit Teacher, for "While Others Talk, These Mothers Take Lunch Duty," in its March, 1958, issue.

**Best Article on Value of AFT Membership:** The Wisconsin Teacher, for "Out of the Classroom Window," in its March, 1958, issue.

### Printed or Offset

**Editorial Excellence:** The Washington State Teacher and the Michigan Teacher, tied for first, with second place going to Pennsylvania Federation Teacher.

**Artistic Excellence:** The Michigan Teacher, first, with second place to Portland Teachers Union News Digest.

**Best Editorial:** San Bernardino (Calif.) Teacher, for "Teacher Recruitment," in its April, 1958, issue.

**Best Article on Teacher Community Relations:** The Colorado Teacher, for "Major Teacher Tenure Victory," in its May 1, 1958, issue.

**Best Article on Value of AFT Membership:** The Colorado Teacher, for "Association Protests Company Union Tag," in its March 14, 1958, issue.

### Mimeographed Bulletins

**Editorial Excellence:** Philadelphia Local 3 Reporter, first; second to West Suburban (Ill.) Messenger.

**Artistic Excellence:** West Suburban (Ill.) Messenger,



Union Teacher Press Association, comprised of AFT publications, now a member of International Labor Press Association: Mrs. Marie L. Caylor, editor of American Teacher publications and UPTA founder, inspects charter presented to Mrs. Mary Kasteed, UPTA president, in Milwaukee by Peter Tersick of Indianapolis, ILPA president, right. Edward A. Irwin of Los Angeles, UPTA treasurer, looks on.

first; second to The Oshkosh (Wis.) Teacher.

**Best Editorial:** The Baltimore Teacher for "Call for Committee of 5,000," in its October, 1957, issue.

**Best Article on Teacher-Community Relations:** Pawtucket

Local 930 News, for "Good Luck, Firemen and Policemen," in its April 22, 1958, issue.

**Best Article on Value of AFT Membership:** The Mansfield (Ohio) EDDE, for "Teacher Indignation," in its June, 1958, issue.

## UTPA Speaker Tells Teachers 'Enter Politics, Win Goals'

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—A Chicago newspaper publisher and university board chairman told



Mr. Lerner

union teacher leaders and publication editors here, that education and teacher welfare can be improved by teachers entering politics and he urged them to do so.

Leo A. Lerner, chairman of the board of Roosevelt University and head of a chain of north side newspapers in his city, spoke at a Union Teacher Press Association luncheon at the 42nd annual AFT convention.

He told the teachers they should go into politics for their objectives, because they are "the one group in American life whose self-interests identify with the self-interests of the American people."

### Hits at "Pressures"

Lerner said that teachers have "largely minded their own business," yielding their influence in public matters "to the seen and unseen pressures of those who want to run things without teacher participation."

As one probable result of teacher political action, he predicted teachers of the country by concerted effort could put the AFT Federal Aid to Education program through the next session of Congress. "The administration has obviously dragged its feet," he said, "and it needs prodding. So does Congress."

### Cites Doctors-Dentists

Lerner contended that if doctors could enter politics "to protect their medical monopoly against the interests of public health," then teachers through a well planned program of po-

litical education, can secure the union's seven-point Federal aid program.

### Teacher Scapegoat

"The teacher," he added, "has come to be looked upon as a scapegoat in the home, a necessary nuisance to the board of education, and a footstool in national politics."

"It is time the scapegoat bucked, the nuisance established the respect to which he is entitled, and the footstool kicked back."

He described parents as people who don't think of teachers as professional people, but "as a sort of extra parents provided by God." He added: "Parents don't get paid for being parents so they ask, 'Why should teachers?'"

Lerner urged teacher participation in the selection of school board members, and termed boards in some cities "the No. 1 menace to education."

"They are in a sense," he said, "a reflection of the public's indifferent attitude toward the schools, but when they harden into cliques they outdo the public attitude."

### Boards Play Politics

"Instead of asking themselves, 'Is this good for the children and the community?', they ask, 'What will this do to the taxes? Will this protect the local property owner? Will this hurt the administration which appointed me or elected me? Will this endanger the people in power in the community?' Or 'Can I make a whip out of this to beat some poor devil in the school system and thus get my name in the paper?'"

Lerner added: "Teachers' organizations should work for local government that will appoint board members who care about the children, the teachers, and the schools."

## Teachers Must 'Hold Spade in One Hand, Book in Other'

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—In this largest of Pacific coast cities where the fabulous salaries paid motion picture stars are taken for granted, 73½ per cent of public school teachers must take jobs supplementary to their regular classroom hours to support themselves and their families.

This is shown in the results of a survey presented to the school board in favor of higher pay for teachers, by the Los Angeles Teachers Union, Local 1021, of which Edward A. Irwin is president.

Summarizations of the Local's findings were given the board under cover of a cartoon depicting the teacher as a physically schizophrenic figure with one hand holding a book and the other a ditch-digger's spade.

### Do Common Labor

Those compelled to do extra work ranging from night school teaching to common labor included 88.8 percent of men and 40.4 percent of women teachers. More than 24 percent were found to be able to teach with added income other than from working.

Answers to the survey questions presented an interesting and warning analysis of the effect on children of the overburdening of teachers. More than half felt, frankly, that their teaching suffered because of the extra hours, and an excess of 83 per cent agreed they could give more to teaching were it not for the time and energy demanded by the work outside school.

### Work Week-Ends

Thirty-seven percent of Los Angeles teachers work Saturdays, 20 percent on Sundays, 34 percent daytime after school, 51 percent evenings and 75 percent during the summers, the

necessity for the latter precluding summer study.

Sixty-six percent reported that they had trouble finding extra jobs, and only about 8 percent said they would do the extra work were their salaries adequate. Spouses also worked in 52 percent of cases, but half of these said they would not were the teaching salaries sufficient to live on. Eighty-five percent of all teachers in the survey said they had difficulty living on their teaching salaries.

### Extra Work Loads

Extra work loads carried, supplementing their teaching salaries, were summarized as follows:

Up to 15 hours per week, 51 percent; 15 to 30 hours, 24 percent, and 40 hours or more, 25 percent.

The kind of extra work the teachers reported they were doing included, teaching, 46 percent; sales-service, 43 percent; production and labor, 32 percent, and other, 17 percent.

Fifty percent of the extra-work teachers reported outside earnings of less than \$999 a year; 43 percent \$1,000 to \$3,000 and only 6 percent more than \$3,000.

### Take Home Pay Low

Take home pay of Los Angeles teachers, brought out by the request for increases and the survey was less than \$3,660 for 25 percent. Median was shown to be \$4,582. Commented one teacher in answering his questionnaire:

"I feel ridiculous sending my wife to work and taking part time employment after spending seven years in higher education. Although I enjoy teaching and feel very capable and competent in my profession, the inadequate salary I receive may force me to leave teaching."

## Los Angeles, 1021, Removes Masters Degree Pay Hurdle

LOS ANGELES—Removal of the Master's degree as a salary "hurdle" was the prime achievement of the Los Angeles Teachers' Union, Local 1021, in a salary drive that lasted for more than six months.

For years Local 1021 has insisted that if an additional degree really meant anything, then reward should be made for it when achieved, not 12 years after employment. Nor should the degree, the union said, act as a barrier to further advances.

As a solution, the Local recommended that \$10 per month be given to anyone who holds an MA. This was accepted by the superintendent and the board of education, as was the Local's recommendation that an additional sum also be given holders of a PhD.

### Cut One Step

In addition, the superintendent and board accepted the Local's recommendation that the final salary step be cut off the schedule, a move that is in line with AFT policy of reducing the number of years it takes to reach maximum.

The overall increase allowed, however, was only an average of 2½ per cent, a figure far below that urged by the union in numerous conferences, in a salary rally, on huge charts and colored slides, and in a public presentation to the board which an overflow 1,200 teachers attended.

Hank Zivetz, Local 1021 executive secretary, was given a standing ovation for his powerful speech calling for collective bargaining as a means of arriving at salary increases instead of the usual "acting in a vacuum."

### For Tax Increase

Continued conferences with and presentations to the board into the summer months resulted in an additional 1 per cent raise for all teachers, which brought the elementary tax rate to the limit.

Local 1021 President Edward A. Irwin immediately informed the board that the Local would push for a tax rate increase election so that salaries next year may be boosted, instead of having to be cut.



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## Meany Devotes Labor Day Message to Needs of Schools

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A renewed drive by organized labor to rehabilitate and modernize the American public school system as well as staff it with better paid teachers was signaled in his Labor Day message by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

Meany's entire message, on the eve of school opening, was devoted to the nation's critical school needs and a sobering report of a study by 10 American educators of Soviet Russia's total commitment to education.

The labor leader summarized the recent month-long study in Russia, where, it was pointed out, classes are of reasonable size, teachers are chosen on a highly selective basis, and there was no evidence of any shortage.

Also, the report continued, there is an abundance of staff assistance to teachers and principals, and "school money is available to do the job."

#### Aim: Beat U. S.

"Everywhere in Russia," Meany quoted, "there are evidences of a burning desire to surpass the United States. In education, the spirit is a race for knowledge, for supremacy in a way of life and in world leadership. Russians are convinced that time is on their side and they can win world supremacy through education and hard work."

Meany underscored, in contrast,

the tremendous problem American education faces.

"Estimates of the United States Office of Education," he said, "show that... there is a need for 44,000 new classrooms—just to take care of higher enrollments for the current year."

A year ago, he said, we were short 142,300 classrooms; in five years, we would need 222,000, and each year, from 14,000 to 20,000 new classrooms are needed to replace the obsolete, outmoded and dangerous ones. He added:

"A Federal school construction program put into effect as fast as the law will allow could be a powerful tool for putting America back to work."

#### "Eleven Cents Per Hour"

With a 1957 average teacher income of \$4,330, Meany estimated, and a six-hour day, 190-day year, the average pay per student in a class of 35 is less than 11 cents per hour.

"These facts speak for themselves," he said. "We are not properly compensating good teachers. Salary improvements would be a signal that we recognize the worth and importance of our teacher. It would keep good teachers in our school system. It would be an investment in America's future that would pay tremendous dividends."

## UAW in \$1,000 Gift to Aid 'Tucky Teacher Organization

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The Kentucky Federation of Teachers is carrying on its organization program with the aid of a \$1,000 contribution from the United Automobile Workers.

Miss Ethel du Pont, KFT vice-president, received the check from Walter Reuther, UAW president, who expressed appreciation for help the



Miss du Pont

## Kolar Gets Top Vote, AFL-CIO Board Election

DETROIT, Mich. — Mrs. Antonia B. "Tony" Kolar, recently re-elected president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, Local 231, is also "top member" of the newly merged Michigan AFL-CIO executive board of forty.

When the count was completed she had drawn more votes for the AFL-CIO council than any other successful candidate. She first joined Teachers Local 231 in 1937, and served



Mrs. Kolar

automobile workers received from her during a 1945-46 General Motors strike.

Miss du Pont's protest in favor of retirement benefits for UAW members at that time is mentioned in John Gunther's book, "Inside U.S.A."

## Bright Heads New Michigan Science Group

DETROIT, Mich.—Dr. J. Russell Bright, member of Wayne State University Federation of Teachers, Local 1295, and associate dean of the university's college of liberal arts, is chairman of Michigan's new 17-member science advisory board.

Gov. G. Mennen Williams appointed Dr. Bright to head the group of science and industry experts commissioned to find ways of coordinating the state's scientific facilities, integrate its scientific resources into the national defense, improve and augment the supply of trained scientists and engineers, and aid governmental agencies in making careers in science more attractive.

Dr. Bright, who was previously secretary and vice-president before being elected its president.

Resolutions published in the

## Ligtenberg New Manager Chicago Bar

CHICAGO, Ill.—John Ligtenberg, general counsel for the American Federation of Teachers, is a newly elected member of the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association.



Ligtenberg, an authority on school and professional practice laws, is a member of the firm of Rugen, Ligtenberg and Goebel.

He has been active in the bar association for many years, serving on numerous committees and in activities having to do with civic projects, ethics and practice.

## School Cost Cut Follows Tax Defeat

RICHMOND, Calif.—The Richmond school boards put a \$300,000 economy program into effect, after it had conceded to the Contra Costa County Federation of Teachers, Local 866, that open public hearings rather than secret sessions be held on the matter.

Following the defeat of a tax increase in a referendum last spring, the local objected to secret sessions by the school administrators to determine necessary cuts in its program.

Kenneth C. Fitzgibbons, Local president, led members in a successful open meeting, during which the Local presented a 14-

## Ferndale Gets Written Board Policy

FERNDALE, Mich.—The Ferndale Federation of Teachers, Local 1074, has won a written statement of policy from its board giving teachers the right to join professional organization of their own choice.



Mr. McNeil

Don McNeil, Local 1074 president, said the ruling gives teachers groups equal access to use of school facilities for meetings and communications. A teacher may also refuse to affiliate with any organization if he so desires.

The ruling was obtained after two years of negotiation and the election of two new board members. It is the one pioneered by the Vallejo (Calif.) Federation of Teachers, Local 827.

point economy proposal opposing any increase in class size or teachers clerical responsibility and reduction in teacher preparation time.

These points met with the approval of teachers of the district. Others sparking public support, included: reduction of the central administrative staff, elimination of four high school student activity vice-principals and for supervisors teaching at least three classes per day.

The enacted economy cuts included a \$176,000 saving by elimination of school bus transportation. Others were elimination of athletic subsidies paid to high schools and of instrumental music programs in elementary schools, a self-sustaining adult education program and reduction of purchases in equipment.

## AFL-CIO Education Program Published in New Booklet

CHICAGO, Ill. — Resolutions on education, spelling out current policies, passed by the second constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO last December in Atlantic City have been published in booklet form by the united labor organization.

The majority of the actions were introduced and screened through the convention education

Requests for copies of this booklet, "AFL-CIO Resolutions on Education," should be addressed to John D. Connors, AFL-CIO Department of Education, 815 Sixteenth St. N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

tion and resolutions committee by the AFT delegation which was headed by President Carl J. Megel.

Included is the one on raising teacher standards declaring the National Education Association "in effect a company union," and the AFT the only bona fide trade union organization of classroom teachers.

Resolutions published in the

booklet also include one on the crisis in education, citing the need for Federal Aid for Education, vocational education, aid for higher education, the school lunch program and the labor extension service.

Others are headed, "Recommended Central Body, National and International Union, and Local Union Action in Education Programs," and "Cooperation Between AFL-CIO and University Workers' Education Centers."

#### Condemn "Merit Rating"

Also "Special Days in Public Schools," urging that the free public schools remain free in every respect, the "Merit Rating Plan," and "Increased Appropriations for the U. S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training."

Another covers veterans vocational rehabilitation and education, while the final one, "Attacks on Federal Aid to State and Local Government," condemns attacks on the Federal grant system, declaring that the system should be enlarged.



## Fine Urges Higher Salaries, Stop Sneering at 'Eggheads'

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—More than doubled salaries and higher standards of training for teachers were called essential by Dr. Benjamin Fine at a Forum here recently.

Fine, formerly education editor of the New York Times, now dean of the graduate school of education, Yeshiva University, spoke on a panel sponsored by the Yale Teachers Union, Local 204.

"The teaching profession," he said, "is in need of two major improvements. First, salaries must be increased to a range of \$10,000-\$20,000 in the next ten years. Second, teacher training

like law or medicine, should be a graduate program."

"We cannot," he added, "afford to sneer at eggheads any longer, and such a pay scale is necessary if American education is to be worthy of the name."

Fine advocated a 5-year minimum program for teacher training, with either three years of liberal arts and two of graduate teacher training work, or four of liberal arts and one of graduate professional work.

"One-half of the graduate work," he declared, "ought to be spent in actual classroom teacher training, rather than in watered-down theory courses."

## \$4,500 Floor For Waukegan Township High

WAUKEGAN, Ill.—The Waukegan Township High School district has joined the many Chicago area localities paying larger salaries than the big city itself.

Bachelors in the school now receive \$4,500 to \$6,700 in 15 steps, compared with \$4,200 to \$6,200 last year.

The Masters lane was upped to \$4,700-\$7,500 in the same length of time. While advancement on the schedule was previously limited to \$500, all teachers are now on schedule.

Announcement of the increases followed several meetings during the last year of a faculty welfare committee chaired by Ott Bay and comprised entirely of AFT members with a special committee of the board of education.

Other teachers on the welfare committee were: Robert Nickel, Sam Filippo, Kathleen Randolph, Margaret Perucca, Ogden Poole and Julian Hills.

The Waukegan high school group is a unit of the Lake County Teachers Union, Local 504, of which David Fields is president.

Fringe gains included extension of accumulative sick leave from 50 to 90 days.

## North Berwyn Schedule Up \$300-\$500

NORTH BERWYN, Ill.—Teachers of North Berwyn in the jurisdiction of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, began this school year with salaries of \$300 to \$500 above last year's.

Negotiations for the raise was marked by a controversy between the board and the teachers as to whether a raise at the time was legally permissible.

An opinion from John Lightenberg, AFT general counsel, held that it was, contrary to one from school attorneys that it wasn't.

The new salary schedule: Bachelors from \$4,210 to \$5,810 a year, and Masters, \$4,410 to \$6,210.

## Did He Mean Merit Rating? Two Guesses

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Dr. Benjamin C. Willis of Chicago, the country's highest paid superintendent of schools, addressing a meeting of public school administrators here, said:

"One of the enduring challenges to school administrators is to locate, develop, and reward great teachers. I am convinced that we are wasting much of

## Fewkes Calls for Doubling Teachers Pay in 10 Years

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1, pioneer and largest AFT affiliate, has called for the doubling of teachers salaries here in the next 10 years.

John M. Fewkes, overwhelmingly re-elected the Local's president this spring, said the goal as well as a \$750 across-the-board pay increase request for the coming year, was approved by the union's executive board and house of representatives.

### Two-Step Increase

Chicago's Bachelors lane is currently \$4,350-\$6,600 and its Masters \$4,600-\$7,100. The \$750 increase, with \$250 starting in January and \$500 in September, would bring the Bachelors to \$5,100, minimum, reaching \$7,300 in nine years.

It would up the Masters to \$5,350, minimum, reaching \$8,850 in ten steps. The union also opened active negotiations for the increase.

Fewkes contended that the postponement of the \$500 increase until September would allow opportunity for the city to

secure added funds from the state.

He also said a part of the money could come from funds for hiring new teachers, since new teachers are unavailable. He added: "The board can save funds by making its own surveys, rather than hiring outside firms."

### Submits 17 Points

The \$750 sought next year would cost about \$12 million, and benefit 16,000 teachers, more than 10,000 of which are CTU members.

Fewkes' proposals were embodied in a 17-point program, on which he urged a meeting of Local 1's officers and the school board sitting as a committee of the whole.

### Urges New Revenues

The board was asked to set up a legislative program for additional school revenue from other than real estate tax. Also that a 20-year service increment be substituted for the present 30-year; that sick leave be improved and that teachers be supplied at school district expense with Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage.

## San Francisco Scale Higher, Lengthened

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—San Francisco teachers returning to school this Fall are somewhat heartened by their larger pay envelopes due to efforts of the San Francisco Federation of Teachers, Local 61, while needing an extra year to reach maximum.

President Dan Jackson, of Local 61, reported the new teach-

ers schedule includes: Bachelors, \$4,670 to \$7,270, in 14 steps, as compared to last year's \$4,500 to \$6,970, with 13, a difference of \$170 to \$200.

The new Masters scale is \$5,055 to \$7,935, in 14 steps, which compares with \$4,870 to \$7,630 in 13, an increase of \$185 to \$305.

In the Master plus one year category, the new scale is \$5,425 to \$8,560 in 12, compared to last year's \$5,225 to \$7,630 in 11, an increase of \$200 to \$310.

City College instructors' new schedule is \$5,840 to \$8,975, in 12 steps, as compared to last year's \$5,625 to \$8,650 in 11, a raise of \$215 to \$325.

ified and the teachers in general feel it was quite an improvement for the district."

The \$400 across-the-board increase was granted Local 1220 after the Local had been asked to submit a schedule. The figures were studied by an accounting firm which then determined maximum raises to be given.

The new Bachelors lane is \$4,200 reaching \$6,400 in 12 steps, with \$150 increments, as compared with \$3,800 to \$6,000 last year.

The new Masters is \$4,500 to \$6,700 in 14 steps as compared with \$4,100 to \$6,300 last year.

## E. St. Louis Teachers Win \$400 Raise

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—A quarter of a million dollar salary increase for 650 teachers went into effect for this school year when the East St. Louis Federation of Teachers, Local 1220, had completed negotiations with the board of education.

Federation President Paul Woods said: "We are well sat-

## Lawyer Needed Indianapolis To Get Raise In One City

DULUTH, Minn.—Teachers in the jurisdiction of the Hermann Educational Association, Local 1096, started the new school year with a pay increase but the Local had to employ an attorney to get it.

Gerald Henry, Duluth attorney, negotiated the raise after the school board failed to offer what the teachers considered an adequate schedule.

The new Bachelors lane is \$3,900 reaching \$5,800 in nine years, with \$200 increments, as compared with \$3,600 to \$5,400 last year in the same number of steps.

Alex J. Carlson, Local 1096's publicity chairman, reported also that the new Masters lane is now \$4,200 to \$6,100 in nine

## New Schedule, \$4,200--\$6,950

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Teachers' pay is higher but not too much more in Indianapolis this school year.

Ed Andrews, president of the Indianapolis Classroom Teachers Association, Local 581, said the new Bachelors is \$4,200 to \$6,450 in 15 years as compared with the previous \$4,050 to \$6,300.

Masters now get \$4,400 to \$6,950 in 17 years, also a \$150 increase across the board.

steps, and that sick leave for all teachers was increased from 30 to 60 days, at 10 days per year.

Compensation for 6 or more quarter hours of college credits for professional advancement was increased from \$75 to \$100.

## Thornton Gets a Raise --In Public

HARVEY, Ill.—Teachers of Thornton Township high school and junior college are back in school with a smaller-than-requested \$300 a year pay increase after the Thornton Federation of Teachers, Local 1230, forced the board to validate it at a publicly announced meeting.

Local 1230 asked for a \$430 to \$680 raise at the Bachelor's level, and \$450 to \$700 similarly at the Masters. The board met unannounced and decided on the \$300.

Secret board meetings are illegal in Illinois, and James L. Davis, the Local's president and its salary committee feared the action so taken was subject to court challenge. He and Carl J. Megel, AFT president, said so in the press and over the radio.

The board re-met and announced the 1958-59 schedule of \$4,300-\$7,100 for BAs, and \$4,500-\$7,300 for MAs in 16 steps. Davis declared:

"The board could well have afforded to grant the schedule requested by the teachers. The township currently spends only 55 to 60 per cent of its funds for teachers salaries, compared with a national average of 70 per cent."

the dormant talent in our teacher group.

"It is ironic that our major means of recognizing superior teachers is to remove the teacher from the classroom for other duties."

The Chicago school board, which depends largely on Dr. Willis for salary recommendations, has allowed itself to be outstripped salary-wise (and stripped of many good teachers) by suburban districts, nearly all of which pay more than the Windy City.

## Cost of Living Voids Benefit In Hamtramck

HAMTRAMCK, Mich.—With the cost of living in the area soaring, the Hamtramck school board doled out only a \$200 across the board pay increase for its teachers this school year.

Other school employees, previously on a comparatively higher scale, got the same raise. The new teachers schedule includes: Bachelors, \$4,500 to \$6,300 and Masters, \$4,700 to \$6,500, both in nine steps.

Stanley Borowy, Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, Local 1052 president, made it clear to the board that teachers are not happy with the small increase. Lower maximums than in other comparable Michigan cities have consistently prevailed in Hamtramck.

## Moline Group Advances Pay to \$4,000

MOLINE, Ill.—Teachers of Moline are under a new pay schedule increasing Bachelors from \$200 at the start to \$300 at the top, and Masters \$300 to \$550 a year.

The new schedule is \$4,000 to \$5,600 for BA's in 14 steps, one less than previously, and \$4,300 to \$6,200 for MA's in 15 years.

The increase was sparked by the Moline Federation of Teachers Local 791, of which Willard Starkey is president. The schedule contains lanes for two and three-year teachers going down to \$3,350, and for Ph.D.'s ranging from \$4,800 to \$6,200 in 17 years.





AFT 42nd annual convention committee chairmen meet to plan their sessions: Standing, from left—Carol Zillman, Milwaukee, international relations; Mrs. Antonia Kolar, Detroit, officers reports; Mary White, West New York, N. J., social and economic trends; James O'Meara, Cleveland, resolutions; Dan Jackson, San Francisco, Calif., civil and professional rights; Harvey Ottersen, Minneapolis, Minn., salary and working conditions; Harriet Pease, Schenectady, N. Y., nominations and elections. Seated—Mrs. Sylvia Solomon, Toledo, Ohio, workshops on union techniques; Mary Lucille Davis, Rockford, Ill., research planning; Ann Maloney, Gary, Ind., legislation; Richard Eichenberger, Boulder, Colo., taxation and school finance; and Alice Walsh, New York City, sub-committee, officers reports. Other committee chairmen not in photo included: Mary Caroline Whitney, Chicago, credentials; Mrs. Lydia Lewis, Chicago, democratic human relations; and Gerald O. Connor, Chicago, national educational trends and policies.

### Bargaining

From Page 1

mediation board and/or an arbitration board, and

"6) A declaration that any interference in the employee's rights provided (in the law) is illegal."

#### Asks Labor Support

The model bill was unanimously recommended to the convention by the committee which was chaired by Ann Maloney of Gary, Ind., past vice-president, as was an adopted resolution asking its support by state labor organizations.

Other convention actions asked repeal of state no-strike laws, proposed a Bachelors degree minimum or equivalent for teachers at all levels, reiterated support of Federal Aid for Education, opposed so-called "right-to-work" laws and urged statehood for Hawaii.

Opposition to television teaching as a substitute for teacher-pupil relationship was reiterated, and "all plans which base teachers salaries on 'merit rating' were condemned.

#### For Duty-Free Lunch

The adopted report of the salary and working conditions committee chaired by Harvey Ottersen of Minneapolis and North P. Groves of Hammond, Ind., also urged continued efforts for state laws giving teachers 30-minute, duty-free lunch periods.

It also reiterated recommendations for salary schedules starting at \$6,000 and reaching \$12,000 in eight steps for Bachelors, and added that Masters should be paid \$1,000 a year more, with two \$500 for first and second 15-hour steps beyond that degree.

#### Problem Student Classes

The adopted report of the committee on social and economic trends chaired by Gerald R. Fisher of Utica, N. Y., urged among other things the establishment of special high schools or classes for troubled and troublesome students, and also recommended organization and minimum salaries for college teachers.

The convention asked "every member of the American Fed-

## Rhode Island Ruling Shows Need For Bargaining Laws

CHICAGO, Ill. — The general counsel for the American Federation of Teachers cited this year's Rhode Island Supreme Court ruling upholding a lower court injunction against a teachers' strike as demonstrating the need for state legislation establishing collective bargaining measures for teachers and other public employees.

John Ligtenberg pointed out the implications of the ruling which was in the case of the City of Pawtucket against the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance, Local 930. The Local had been forced to end a work stoppage by the original injunction.

#### On Salary Issue

The Supreme Court held that government employees in the state have no right to strike, while refusing to pass on the reasonableness of the demands of the teachers for salary increases. It said:

"While we hold that those accepting government employment as teachers must acknowledge that the function of government in a Democracy cannot be impeded or obstructed by strikes, we recognize their right collec-

tion of Teachers (to) strive to introduce an objective consideration of the true goals, values, history and methods of American unionism into the curriculum of his school and district."

An adopted Democratic Human Relations Committee report contained a resolution by the New York Teachers Guild, Local 2, urging states and communities to provide equal integrated schools for all children, and the Federal government to set up schools in any state or locality closing them to avoid Supreme court ruling compliance.

Numerous previously enacted policies and objectives were reiterated or strengthened. These included efforts for better hospital and sick benefits, severance pay, and others.

tively as well as individually to present demands for just and reasonable remuneration for their services."

#### Individual May Quit

"The opinion was also careful to point out," Ligtenberg said, "that while the injunction restrained the action of the union in calling the strike, it would not in any way impose upon an individual an obligation to work against his will."

### Michigan

From Page 1

ings of unprecedented significance to Michigan teachers inasmuch as they establish a basis for greater professional stability in the state, included:

1) A supreme court refusal to review a tenure commission order that Miss Marveta Hine be restored to her job as teacher in the Hazel Park schools (American Teacher, May, 1958) and paid back salary estimated by Mrs. Baxter at more than \$10,000.

2) The suburban Fraser school board capitulated to a tenure commission "spanking" and put three members of the Fraser Federation of Teachers, Local 1230, back to work.

3) Attorney General Paul A. Adams ruled that probationary teachers can be discharged only for cause and that the tenure commission has jurisdiction over such cases.

4) The Melvindale school board capitulated to Clark Rehberg after he was ordered reinstated in his job of high school teacher by the supreme court (American Teacher, May, 1958) and paid him \$30,000 for lost salary.

5) The Ingham county circuit court ruled that the state mediation board has jurisdiction in deadlocked teacher-board disputes over salaries and other employment conditions.

Miss Hine, a member of the Hazel Park Federation of Teach-

ers, Local 838, was separated from her job by the school board in 1955, in a controversy over her modern teaching techniques.

Some of the board's maneuvers were unusual and unconventional, including a demand that she submit to examination by a board-selected psychiatrist. Her court and tenure commission case was supported financially by the Michigan Federation of Teachers.

The teachers in the Fraser case were Mrs. Venus Brown, a 12-year veteran elementary teacher, and Clayton Moden, 5-year commercial teacher, who were discharged, and science teacher Lawrence Crossen, ordered to serve a third probationary year.

The tenure commission followed a hearing of the Crossen and Moden cases by ordering Crossen placed under tenure, and indicating that it would order Mrs. Brown and Moden reinstated.

#### Rehberg Wins \$30,000

In the Rehberg case, the \$30,000 back salary settlement followed a \$100,000 damage and collection suit filed by the teacher, after the board "stalled" in consenting to a settlement.

Rehberg was fired from his job in the Melvindale high school nine years ago after being charged with becoming familiar by several girls, later discredited. He is a former president of the Melvindale Federation of Teachers, Local 1051, and was

### N. Y. Annuity

From Page 1

Eliot Birnbaum and Mildred Cate, a kindergarten teacher.

The teachers contended that the board's action cutting the rates was unconstitutional, and that the mortality rates effective in 1940 under the present state constitution should continue as the basis for the pensions.

The ESFT court battle was aided by an American Federation of Teachers defense fund grant, and some 100,000 teachers in the state including New York City are beneficiaries of the victory as well as, indirectly, attorneys said, some 400,000 other public employees.

The Teachers Retirement System board had claimed that adherence to the old annuity tables would bankrupt the system because many retired teachers were living longer than had been anticipated.

#### "Cannot Ignore People"

Chief Justice Albert Conway, who wrote the majority appeals court ruling, said:

"If bankruptcy now threatens to overtake the Teachers Retirement System, the system must turn to the legislature for financial assistance. It may not ask us to ignore the will of the people as expressed in their constitution."

Birnbaum called the decision "a great victory" for the Empire State and American Federations of Teachers. He said: "We rejoice in winning this case for the teachers of the state, and thank the AFT for the subsidies that helped us to carry it through the highest court."

#### Cogen Asks Action

Charles Cogen, president of the New York Teachers Guild, Local 2, in which city the teachers' annuity rates were cut in 1943, due also to an increase in life expectancy, immediately

asked the city's retirement board to adjust the rates.

He declared that annuities of retired teachers who entered the system before 1943 should be increased at least 5 per cent, and many cases more with use of the pre-1943 rates.

Attorneys for Birnbaum and Miss Cate were Victor Levine and Gustus Amrose of Syracuse. Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz entered the suit in the court of appeals for the State Employees Retirement System on the side of the teachers.

The ESFT case was opposed by the Teachers Retirement Board, the City of New York and the State School Boards Association. All contended that the constitution permitted the reduction in the rates.

Birnbaum estimated that the annual savings to up-state teachers because of the ruling will amount to about \$300,000, while retroactive rebates to up-state and New York city's retired teachers will be \$1½ million.

## Credit Union To Celebrate First 25 Years

BERLIN, Conn.—The New Britain Teachers Federal Credit Union, services of which were made available to all teachers here through the efforts of the Berlin Federation of Teachers, Local 1233, a few years ago, will observe its 25th anniversary this coming October.

Since its beginning, the credit union has made 3,793 loans totaling about \$1½ million. Assets presently are more than \$470,000.

also backed in his fight through the courts by the Michigan Federation.

#### Mediation Victory

The ruling in the Ingham county circuit court by Judge Sam Street Hughes that teachers have the right to appeal to the Michigan State Labor Mediation Board was called especially significant by Mrs. Baxter. She said:

"Teachers throughout the state are jubilant that the court has recognized teachers as full fledged citizens."

"Teachers as public employees must have means other than the paternalistic decisions of local school boards to seek fair mediation in disputes."

#### Three-Year Fight

The ruling followed three year efforts of the teachers of Garden City, including the Garden City Federation of Teachers, Local 999, for salary and other adjustments.

The school board refused to grant the requests or negotiate. The teachers petitioned the mediation board, and the latter issued subpoenas for a hearing.

The school board then petitioned the circuit court to restrain the mediation board. Judge Hughes' ruling confirmed the mediation board's right to enter the dispute.

Mrs. Baxter added: "The Michigan Federation helped secure a successful vote for tenure in Bath, Benton Harbor and Fitzgerald."



# AFT Hawaiian Tour in Retrospect



First Flight of 61 American Federation of Teachers-sponsored study-tour members on arrival at Honolulu International Airport, for summer session of the University of Hawaii. Aloha greetings and welcome by AFL-CIO and AFT Local leaders in the area were the first of a series of exciting experiences in America's semi-tropical, volcano-pitted and sun-swept Pacific territory, admission to statehood of which is considered by most mainlanders as long over due.

## Enrollees Study Sociology, Some Learn Hula On Side

WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, T. H. —The 9,600 horses in the motors of the overseas plane cooled from their 2,500-mile run, and the 61 members of the first flight of the American Federation of Teachers-sponsored study-tour to the University of Hawaii summer session, stepped into exotic adventure.

It was a new kind of adventure for most, from the Aloha greeting at the airport on June 23, when the mainlanders were greeted with orchid leis from the Hawaii Federation of Teachers, Local 1279, island music and more leis from the Hawaii Visitors Bureau representing the people of Hawaii.

### Sarongs, Aloha Shirts

From there, and overnight, they entered the fascinating Sociology course, Hawaii and Its People, at the university. Then: Trips over the Islands, shopping forays for muu muus, sarongs and thong slippers, sun bathing, swimming, and—for the more adventurous, outrigger canoes, catamarans and surfboarding! For the men, Aloha shirts.

The second flight of 22 whose schools closed late—mostly from New York and Chicago—arrived a week less one day later, to be greeted by the "old settlers" of the tour and a similar welcome, for initiation into the ways and music of the Islands.

### Own Special Busses

The 83 teachers and members of their families were housed mostly at the Islander, a hotel with palm shaded cottages, apartments and wide lawns; others at the Privateer, built around a swimming pool, with some at the university dormitories. The Honolulu Rapid Transit Company assigned special busses to transport the enrollees to and from class.

The Sociology course, especially announced by Summer School Dean Shunzo Sakamaki for the AFT members, was taught by Dr. Douglas Yamamura and associates. Both Drs. Sakamaki and Yamamura were presented with memberships at large in the American Federation of Teachers and were honored at a dinner given by the AFT enrollees at the end of the session.

### Weekly Field Trips

The course, carrying five graduate credits, covered study and lectures on the ecological, demographic, and cultural factors in the modern Hawaiian community; analysis of factors affecting the definitions of race and race relations in Hawaii; institutional structure and functions with special references to the influences of native and immigrant institutions on contemporary life in the Islands.

It included an average of two field trips a week, and special lectures by authorities on Hawaiian history, economics, geography, government, religion, et cetera, and had as its setting the auditorium of Chemistry building, because of its size.

### Megel on "Vacation"

President Carl J. Megel accompanied the study-tour group for a vacation, but was immediately occupied with talks and visits to AFT Locals, conferences with university and labor leaders, and meetings on teacher welfare. Two days were spent on the Island of Hawaii, the "big island" and its principal city, Hilo, with Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Caylor, tour managers, as guests of Local 1279, where he conferred with President Achong Young and other teachers' leaders, after receiving the key to the city from Hilo's mayor.

Space does not permit a listing of all the study-tour activities. One of the highlights for all enrollees, however, was a Luau (Hawaiian feast), served on palm leaves by the Surf Club, at the invitation of Ethel and Joe Kukea, the former a surf board star and the latter a champion swimmer.

### Ate Pig and Poi

Teachers were guests while a 400-pound pig was laid over roasting stones and cooked, covered by banana leaves. In the evening it was served with poi, fresh pineapple, fish, sweet potatoes and coconut. The affair, authentic in detail, was to help pay expenses of young canoeists in island competition.

AFL-CIO leaders as well as

the university contributed greatly to the success of the study-tour. The former included Dave McClung, secretary of the Central Labor Council of Honolulu; A. S. Reile, AFL-CIO representative in the area, and Harry Boranian, of the Butcher Workmen.

The teachers were guests at an AFL-CIO reception in their honor, at the on-ocean Reef hotel the second week of the course, and at other functions and parties. Between these and the urge to loaf and sight-see, there were few dull moments.

Since it was necessary for Mr. and Mrs. Caylor to leave at the end of the first two weeks of the tour, Mrs. Rosalie Kraus of Moline, Ill.; Miss Sylvia Scheffkind

of Patterson, N. J., and Miss Sophie Jaffe, New Britain, Conn., all enrollees, acted as tour conductors for the remainder of the session.

### Note to Pupils!

Most enrollees arrived back home on overnight flights, Aug. 2. Some lingered in Hawaii, reluctant to leave. Aside to their students:

No foolin'. Quite a number of the teachers on the trip also took the one credit course in Hula at the university, or attended a volunteer class in Waikiki taught by Lula Mansfield, professional dancer, former movie actress and representative of the American Guild of Variety Artists in the Territory.



Second Flight AFT study-tour group, mostly teachers from New York City and Chicago whose schools closed late, arrive a week after first. They enrolled in the university under special dispensation; were met on arrival by the "old settlers" of the previous group and began Sociology course, Hawaii and Its People, the next day.